(c) The steps taken to boost the export of carpet include: organization of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organization of workshops on design development; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organization of India Carpet Fair by Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) bi-annually in New Delhi.

Ban on Import of Indian Clothes by Germany

883. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Germany had imposed a ban on the import of clothes from India in which specific azo dyes harmful to human being were used:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that same clothes are easily available in the Indian markets in plenty; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take to save the unsuspecting public of the country from harmful effects of dyes of such clothes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) With effect from 1st April, 1996, Germany has imposed a legislative requirement prohibiting use of specific azo dyes in textile products, which release any of the 22 amines considered to be harmful to human beings. This prohibition is applicable on the textile products manufactured in Germany as well as those imported into Germany from other countries.

(c) and (d) To stop the use of these harmful dyes in the manufacturing sector in India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has prohibited the handling of dyes which are capable of releasing any of 22 harmful amines. Besides, Government has further set up 23 laboratories, in different parts of the country, with sophisticated instruments capable of testing textiles for detection of the harmful dyes and chemicals.